

**MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION  
CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS FOR  
SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGIST**

**I. PROFESSIONAL REQUIREMENTS:**

The school psychologist certificate, valid for a period of five (5) years from the effective date on the certificate, will be issued to those persons meeting the following requirements:

- A.** Completion of a specialist or equivalent degree with a major emphasis in school psychology from a university meeting approval of the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education;
- B.** Recommendation for certification from the designated official of the university approved to train school psychologists by the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education;
- C.** A minimum of sixty (60) semester hours of professional preparation at the graduate level with competencies demonstrated in all areas listed to the satisfaction of a university meeting approval of the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. Although a separate course need not be taken for each area listed below; substantial graduate-level preparation must be completed in each area. Substantial preparation is acquired through one or more courses devoted specifically to an area, or significant portions of one or more courses.

- 1.** Psychological Foundations:
  - a.** Biological Bases of Behavior;
  - b.** Human Learning;
  - c.** Social and Cultural Bases of Behavior;
  - d.** Child and Adolescent Development;
  - e.** Individual Differences, including human exceptionalities; and
  - f.** Developmental Psychology;
- 2.** Educational Foundations:
  - a.** Instructional Design; and
  - b.** Organization and Operations of Schools;
- 3.** Interventions/Problem Solving:
  - a.** Diverse Methods and Models of Assessment;
  - b.** Linked to Direct Interventions; and
  - c.** Linked to Indirect Interventions;
- 4.** Statistics and Research Methodologies:
  - a.** Statistics;
  - b.** Research and Evaluation Methods; and
  - c.** Measurement;
- 5.** Professional School Psychology:
  - a.** History and Foundations of School Psychology;
  - b.** Legal and Ethical Issues;
  - c.** Professional Issues and standards;
  - d.** Alternative Models for Delivery of School Psychological Services;
  - e.** Emergent Technologies; and
  - f.** Roles and Functions of the School Psychologist.

**D. Competencies:**

- 1.** Data Based Decision Making and Accountability:  
Use models and methods of assessment as part of a systematic process to collect data and translate assessment results into decisions about service delivery.
- 2.** Interpersonal Collaboration and Consultation:  
Use consultation models and methods in collaboration with others at the individual, group, and system levels.

3. **Effective Instruction and Development of Cognitive/Academic Skills:**  
Develop appropriate cognitive and academic goals, implement interventions to achieve these goals, and evaluate the effectiveness of interventions.
  4. **Socialization and Development of Life Competencies:**  
Uses knowledge of human development to develop appropriate behavioral, affective, adaptive, and social goals for students, implements interventions to achieve these goals, and evaluates the effectiveness of instruction. This may be accomplished through consultation, behavior analysis/intervention, counseling, or other interventions.
  5. **Student Diversity in Development and Learning:**  
Demonstrates sensitivity and skills needed to work with individuals of diverse characteristics. Implements strategies selected and/or adapted based on individual characteristics, strengths, and needs.
  6. **School and Systems Structure, Organization, and Climate:**  
Demonstrates knowledge and understanding of general education, special education, and other educational settings as systems.
  7. **Prevention, Crisis Intervention, and Mental Health Services:**  
Demonstrates understanding of human development and psychopathology, and how prevention and intervention programs promote the mental health and physical well-being of students.
  8. **Home/School/Community Collaboration:**  
Demonstrates an understanding of family systems and how these influence student development, learning, and behavior.
  9. **Research and Program Evaluation:**  
Demonstrates an understanding of research, statistics, and program evaluation methods.
  10. **School Psychology Practice and Professional Development:**  
Demonstrates knowledge of the history, foundations, ethical, and legal standards of professional school psychology.
  11. **Information and Technology:**  
Demonstrates an understanding of information sources and technology relevant to their work.
- E. Completion of a planned program of practicum experiences and supervised internship designed to achieve these competencies as part of an approved graduate degree program in school psychology. The planned program must include a supervised internship equivalent to one (1) academic year, or a minimum of 1,200 hours, with at least half of the internship completed in an educational setting. This internship experience will include opportunities to demonstrate skills learned in all coursework.
- F. Must achieve a score equal to or in excess of the qualifying score of the exit assessment(s), as defined by the rules promulgated by the board. The official score report shall be submitted to the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE).

## **II. RENEWAL OF CERTIFICATE:**

The school psychologist's certificate may be renewed each five (5) years by persons meeting the following requirements:

- A. Written request for renewal of the certificate of license to practice as a school psychologist;
- B. Verification of one (1) year experience as a school psychologist during the previous five (5) years;
- C. Documentation of one hundred and five (105) clock hours of professional workshops/seminars/conferences appropriate for a school psychologist. Clock hour credit may also be given for teaching or training activities, research and publications, supervision of practicum or internship students, and professional state or national leadership activities,

**OR**

Submission of transcripts showing graduate level coursework for school psychologists.

\*In-service credit of fifteen (15) clock hours equals one (1) graduate semester hour of credit.

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Persons who do not meet the above requirements under B for renewal of their certificate shall complete graduate courses and/or professional development activities equivalent to eight (8) semester hours of graduate credit (120 clock hours).